



Lawrence Public Schools Covid-19 Interim Policy Pandemic-Related Out of District Access to Learning

Summary:

Pandemic-related health and safety concerns led the LAE Board in August 2020 to approve a remote learning plan under which Lawrence Public School (“LPS”) began the school year. Additionally, ongoing pandemic-related challenges, specifically high Covid-19 case numbers in Lawrence, have caused delays in the planned, phased return of high needs student groups. As families and students adapt to this unique reality, many families have also incurred hardships related to the pandemic and/or the challenges of remote learning, or extensions thereof. These include, but are not limited to:

- *Childcare/supervision for working families*
- *Unemployment due to business closures or reductions in staffing*
- *Health concerns/conditions that place a student and/or their family at risk*

As a result, LPS families are looking for solutions, including the temporary relocation of their families or their children outside of Lawrence, out of state, and out of the country.

This interim policy provides temporary relief and flexibility for families in need of the above strategy and reduces academic-related issues typically associated with high rates of mobility, while preserving expectations for families’ and students’ active engagement and attendance in LPS classes.

Interim Policy:

During the period in which LPS implements Remote Learning or Hybrid Learning, students will be allowed to access learning from communities outside of Lawrence, including other towns/cities, states and countries, provided that:

1. The student’s parent or guardian completes the [Agreement for Pandemic-Related Out of District Access to Learning](#), acknowledging that the student and/or family are temporarily staying outside of Lawrence as a result of pandemic-related conditions;
2. Students are able to reliably and consistently use their LPS loaned devices or personal technology to access prescribed learning in their new location;

3. Students have consistent access to reliable internet connectivity provided by the family/caregiver in their new location;
4. Students return to attend in-person classes at such time that the District returns to full in-person learning with no restrictions; and
5. Families are responsible for maintaining any LPS loaned device and for the return of the loaned device should they unenroll from the District.

Attendance and Grading Policies

LPS students learning outside of Lawrence during the implementation of the LPS Remote Learning or Hybrid Learning Plans, will be held accountable for attendance and for their academic progress. Should absenteeism reach chronic levels (10% or more of enrolled days), students may be withdrawn from LPS.* Moreover, if a student's change in location becomes permanent, or continues beyond the time at which a full return to in person learning takes place, the student will also be withdrawn.

Notification

Impacted families should inform their individual school of their plans as soon as possible and discuss their ability to meet expectations outlined above. Starting November 16, 2020, advance notification will be required, to include completion of the Agreement as outlined above. Families of students staying outside of Lawrence prior to this date are required to complete the Agreement by November 24, 2020. Families who fail to complete the contract may be required to either return to Lawrence in order to continue to remain enrolled in LPS or enroll their student(s) in the locality in which they are staying.

School process for tracking students learning from locations outside of Lawrence

Schools will be able to access a list of assigned students learning from outside of Lawrence, using a Google sheet linked to the Contract.

LPS School Assignment Policy

The LPS School Assignment Policy, J5AA, remains in effect and families who establish a new primary, permanent residence outside of Lawrence will be directed to enroll in their new community, as well as be withdrawn from LPS.

**Absences due to significant illness, when documented by a physician's note, will be reviewed by the principal on a case-by-case basis.*